

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
February 25, 2013

Deputy Mayor Antonia Moran called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro  
Excused: Paterson, Paulhus

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger and Mr. Ryan who abstained. Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Ryan and Mr. Schaefer who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Howard Raphaelson, Timber Drive, spoke about the emergency personnel's need to practice on the equipment they use to save lives and property and urged the Council to provide adequate funding for fuel to provide this needed experience.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, submitted photographic evidence provided by Mike Sikoski showing a fire truck parked outside of a private residence. (Photograph to be included as a communication in the March 11, 2013 packet) Mr. Hossack also questioned the \$127,000 deficit in the school building project and asked the Council how they are going to pay it.

Larry Alan, Middle Turnpike, thanked the Council for considering his request for reimbursement of fees incurred as part of the purchase of property for the school building project. Mr. Alan stated he and his wife used the services of an attorney sparingly but felt the expense was necessary given the unique agreement under consideration. Mr. Alan's experience with the Town has been very positive.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, spoke about the Alan reimbursement, the Governor's proposal to eliminate the tax on vehicles and requested the Board of Education's meetings be broadcast. (Statement attached)

Tulay Luciano, Warrenville Road, asked why the Town allows a publicly owned water supply in Storrs to be unregulated and if UConn was a water company would they have been able to build as they have. Ms. Luciano also questioned the impact the Governor's proposed UConn plan would have on the Town.

Art Smith, Mulberry Road, thanked the Council for providing streaming and cable broadcast of their meetings and urged the Board of Education to do the same. Mr. Smith questioned why the Town has not continued the practice of documenting the movement of emergency vehicles.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written comments Town Manager Matt Hart offered the following comments:

- Owners of the Mansfield Hollow Hydro Project have been asked to present a comprehensive proposal for staff review
- The school building project overrun would have been eligible for reimbursement as a project expense but if the project is not going forward an adjustment will have to be made to CIP

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- The UConn water system is not unregulated with regards to water quality but is treated differently with regards to the development of water company lands
- The awarded contract for the transportation center is not to a local company but was chosen in accordance with the guidelines provided by the funding entity, the federal government.

Council members discussed the Storrs Center projected tax revenues and operating costs.

Deputy Mayor Moran welcomed the UConn journalism students and noted Council members are always willing to assist.

#### V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members began a discussion concerning the broadcasting of Board of Education meetings. In response to a point of order offered by Mr. Shapiro and supported by the Deputy Mayor, Ms. Keane moved to add the subject to the agenda as Item 5a. Seconded by Mr. Shapiro the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to add a discussion of the broadcasting of Region 19 Board of Education meetings to the agenda as Item 5b. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran, on behalf of the Council, offered her sympathies to Councilor Freudmann on the recent loss of his mother.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to add Update on School Emergency Procedures as the first item of new business, Item 1a. Motion passed unanimously.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

##### 1. Storrs Center Update

Town Manager Matt Hart announced the departure of Leyland Project Manager Macon Toledano who has worked closely with the Town on the Storrs Center Project. He will be missed by all.

#### VII. NEW BUSINESS

##### 1a Update on School Emergency Procedures

Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Fran Raiola and Resident Trooper Coordinator Sergeant Richard Cournoyer provided information on events and actions taken as a result of the December 14, 2012 incident at Newtown and reviewed security measures currently under review by the Board of Education. Staff will review security at all Town buildings.

##### 2. Request for Reimbursement of Legal Expenses

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to reimburse the Alans for 50% of their legal fees.

The motion failed with Moran, Ryan and Schaefer in favor and Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger and Shapiro opposed.

##### 3. Proclamation in Honor of the Life and Memory of Francis "Frank" Trainor

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective February 25, 2013, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation in Honor of the Life and Memory of Francis "Frank" Trainor.

Mr. Schaefer, who knew Mr. Trainor since 1958 remarked he was a grand man, and a great professor who conducted great research.

Motion passed unanimously.

##### 4. Small Cities (Community Development Block Grant) Public Hearing

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Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective February 25, 2013, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on March 11, 2013, to solicit public comment regarding community development needs and the proposed application to the State Department of Economic Community Development for funds under the Small Cities Program.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 5. Legislative Update

Town Manager Matt Hart enumerated some of the items in the proposed Governor's budget and other legislative items which affect the Town and offered the following recommendations:

- Municipal Employee Retirement System – The Town Manager will offer testimony in support of the CCM proposal. Other issues raised will be addressed if the situation presents itself
- Elimination of certain car taxes – The Town will oppose this tax shift to property owners
- Elimination of certain PILOT funds to the ECS grant – The Town will communicate with our elected officials and arrange meetings either in Mansfield or in Hartford to discuss the impact of this proposal on Mansfield. Town representatives will testify at the public hearings; reach out to colleagues in other Towns similarly impacted; communicate with residents via a variety of venues; and inform relevant local unions about the ramifications of this proposal and ask for their assistance. Additionally, the Town Manager will produce a position paper on the impact to the Town and disseminate this information to the press.

Following discussion on the best approaches to use, the Town Manager agreed to develop an action plan.

#### 5a. Broadcasting of Board of Education Meetings

Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Ryan seconded that the Town Council recommends the Board of Education tape and broadcast their meetings, thereby supporting transparency in government. In particular, the Council believes all Board of Education budgetary discussions should be broadcast.

Councilors discussed the availability of the technical capacity of the schools to broadcast their meetings and the advisability of meeting with the Board to discuss the issue.

Deputy Mayor Moran offered an amendment, adding the word “consider” to the motion.

Accepted as a friendly amendment by both Ms. Keane and Mr. Ryan the motion now reads:

The Town Council recommends the Board of Education consider taping and broadcasting their meetings, thereby supporting transparency in government. In particular, the Council believes all Board of Education budgetary discussions should be broadcast.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### 5b. Broadcasting of Region 19 Board of Education Meetings

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded that The Town Council recommends the Region 19 Board of Education consider taping and broadcasting their meetings, thereby supporting transparency in government. In particular, the Council believes all Board of Education budgetary discussions should be broadcast.

The motion passed unanimously.

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## VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered

## IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Kochenburger, Chair of the Committee on Committees, offered the following recommendations:

Stephen Kegler (term ending 9/1/2015) and Betty Jane Karnes (term ending 9/1/2015) to the Commission on Aging

Carole Masters (term ending 6/30/14) and the reappointment of Cristina Colon-Semenza (term ending 6/30/15) to the Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities

Dexter Eddy (term ending 10/31/2017) to the Mansfield Housing Authority.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Moran reported the Personnel Committee is continuing their discussion of the Social Services Department. Ms. Moran also reported the Responsible Contractors Ordinance Ad hoc Committee heard from staff of the State Labor Department this morning where the discussion centered on the apprenticeship program and fraud detection.

## X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

6. J. Goodwin re: Infrastructure Needs

7. J. Goodwin re: Mansfield Tomorrow Focus Groups – Many Councilors are planning to attend the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and will consider volunteering for focus groups after the initial meeting.

8. B. Smith re: 34th Annual Windham Special Olympics Swim Meet

9. B. Simpson re: Misconceptions Regarding Taxes Paid by the UConn Co-op – Mr. Freudmann clarified that his question regarding property taxes paid by the UConn Co-op was why the Co-op pays taxes on only 35% of the property, that which has been deemed non- educational. Mr. Shapiro noted a change in statutes allows the non-educational portion of the taxes to be paid by the lessee.

10. E. Paterson re: gun violence

11. Governor Malloy re: Biennial Budget Proposal

12. Press Release: Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance encourages support of HB 6359 – An Act Concerning and Early Childhood System

13. Proclamation Request for Girl Scout Week – Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Freudmann seconded that the Mayor issue a Proclamation for Girl Scouts Week. The motion passed unanimously. By consensus a ceremony prior to the next meeting will be scheduled to present the proclamation to the Girl Scouts.

14. American City and County “Where Public-Private Partnerships Are Headed In 2013” – January 2013

## XI. FUTURE AGENDA

The Council will be meeting with the Mansfield Board of Education tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the school building project.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to move into executive session to discuss the sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(D) and to include Natural Resources and Sustainability Coordinator Jennifer Kaufman and Town Manager Matt Hart.

Motion passed unanimously.

## XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6) (D)

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

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Also included: Natural Resources and Sustainability Coordinator Jennifer Kaufman and Town Manager Matt Hart.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Council reconvened in regular session. Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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